

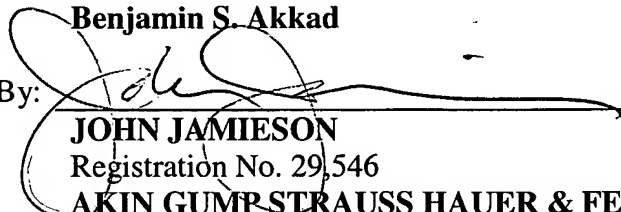
REMARKS

With the entry of this amendment, claims 12, 17-18, 31-34 and 38-44 remain pending while 1-11, 13-16, 19-30 are cancelled, without prejudice. Claims 35-37 were omitted in the original application.

Claims 40-44, which were indicated to be allowable in the pending Office Action, have been placed in independent form for allowance. Claims 12, 17, 18, 31-34, 38 and 39 have been kept and made to depend from one or another of the allowed claims 40-44. In particular, claim 12 depended originally from claim 10, which is now represented by claim 40 in independent form; claims 17 and 18 originally depended from claim 16, which is now represented by claim 43 in independent form. Claims 31-34 depended directly or indirectly from claim 28, which is now encompassed in independent claim 44 while claims 38 and 39 depended directly from claim 30, which is also encompassed in independent claim 44.

For the foregoing reasons, the application and remaining pending claims 12, 17, 18, 31-34 and 38-44 are in the form for allowance. In consideration and entry of the Amendment and allowance of the application are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,

28 Feb. 2005 By: 
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